

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5354

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: APRA SAID TO CALL FOR NATIONAL UNITY FRONT

REF: LIMA 4374

1. LIMA DAILY ULTIMA HORA REPORTS THAT DURING MAY 24 APRA MEETING PARTY LEADER ARMANDO VILLANUEVA DEL CAMPO RECALLED RECENT STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER MORALES BERMUDEZ ON THE NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY. VILLANUEVA PURPORTEDLY DECLARED "IN THE NAME OF THE (APRA) PARTY I WISH TO SAY THAT WE ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE CALL FOR NATIONAL UNITY, BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS UNITY MUST BE ACHIEVED THROUGH DIGNITY AND DEMOCRATIC RESPECT." APRA CHIEF HAYA DE LA TORRE, SAID TO BE RECOVERING FROM THE FLU, SPOKE LITTLE BUT STRESSED THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST NATURE OF APRA, POINTING OUT THAT APRA WAS THE "PRECURSOR IN AMERICAN OF THE IDEA OF FORMING A BLOC OF POOR COUNTRIES."

2. COMMENT: APRA SOURCES TOLD EMBASSY THAT VILLANUEVA STATEMENT DOES NOT SIGNIFY AN APRA WILLINGNESS TO JOIN IN ANYTHING RESEMBLING A NATIONAL UNITY FRONT, IF INDEED THE GOP WOULD MAKE SUCH AN OFFER. APRA DOES, HOWEVER, WISH TO KEEP CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION OPEN TO PRIME MINISTER MORALES BERMUDEZ IN WHOM THEY PLACE SOME HOPE FOR AN UPTURN IN APRA FORTUNES. THE SIGNAL THEREFORE SEEMS TO BE THAT APRA IS IN A SOFTER PHASE OF OPPOSITION.
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TION,. THIS PHASE INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE EXAMPLE (MARCONA MINES)

OF SUBTLE GOP/APRA COOPERATION IN THE TRADE UNION FIELD. APRA
MAY ALSO HAVE A HAND IN THE REVOLUTIONARY LABOR MOVEMENT (MLR)
WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY CERTAIN HIGH GOP OFFICIALS.

3. ALTHOUGH THE ULTIMA HORA ARTICLES SAID THAT HAYA DE LA TORRE
IS RECOVERING FROM THE FLU AND APRA SOURCES TELL EMBASSY HE IS
IN GOOD HEALTH FOR AN 80-YEAR-OLD MAN, THERE ARE RUMORS THAT
HAYA MAY BE MORE SERIOUSLY ILL. IRONICALLY BOTH THE GOP AND ITS APRA
OPPONENTS ARE PLAGUED WITH THE UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING POSSIBLE
LEADERSHIP CHANGES.
DEAN

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